



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-third meeting

Montreal, Canada, 25-29 November 2019

Agenda item 4

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

23/2. Biodiversity and climate change

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. Welcomes the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;¹

2. Also welcomes the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (a) *Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (SR1.5)*,² (b) *IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)*,³ and (c) *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC)*;⁴

3. Further welcomes the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and its implications for the work of the Convention presented in the note by the Executive Secretary;⁵

4. Notes that nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards are an essential component of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

5. Welcomes the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, agreed at the G7 Environment Ministers' meeting, held in France in May 2019,⁶ and the Communiqué of the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, adopted in Japan in June 2019,⁷ and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, adopted in November 2018,⁸ which encourages nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards and ecosystem-based approaches;

¹ <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>

⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

⁶ https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

⁷ <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/803.pdf>

⁸ [UNEP/CBD/COP/14/INF/50](https://www.unep.org/cbd/cop14/inf50), annex II.

6. *Acknowledges* the ongoing joint activities between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on biodiversity and climate change;

7. *Stresses* the need for urgent climate action at all levels and across all sectors and the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner;

8. *Invites* the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the associated thematic workshops, to consider the interlinkages and interdependence between biodiversity, climate change, desertification and land degradation when developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, making use of the information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary⁵ and the various views discussed at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice, as well as the underpinning source materials, with a view to supporting the integration of these issues in the global biodiversity framework;

9. *Also invites* the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in the context of their deliberations on resource mobilization, to consider opportunities from existing as well as new and innovative climate finance sources for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

10. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, when considering the need for guidance on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and reporting, to take into account the need for strong interlinkages between the implementation of biodiversity and climate change policies, particularly with regard to ecosystem-based approaches;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite written submissions from Parties and others, seeking views on possible targets and indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change, compile the views submitted and make them available for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its upcoming meetings and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fourth meeting;

12. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and land degradation are inseparable and interdependent challenges of unprecedented severity that must be coherently and consistently addressed urgently in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement,⁹ as well as the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, among other relevant regional initiatives,

Deeply concerned about the increasing impacts of climate change exacerbating biodiversity loss and weakening the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services,

Acknowledging that, while limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as compared to a 2°C rise or higher, is not sufficient to halt the loss of biodiversity, it would significantly reduce biodiversity loss,

Stressing that holding the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is a prerequisite to avoid further biodiversity loss and land and ocean

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

degradation and to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature, [and will require transformative change],

Noting that nature-based solutions with safeguards are estimated to provide 37 per cent of the climate change mitigation needed by 2030 to meet the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, with likely co-benefits for biodiversity as stated in the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Emphasizing that, while climate change should primarily be mitigated by reducing anthropogenic emissions, the enhanced use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction is also indispensable to achieve multiple globally agreed goals, including the goals of the Paris Agreement,¹⁰

[*Noting* that the large-scale deployment of intensive bioenergy plantations, replacing natural forests and subsistence farmlands, subsidies harmful to agriculture and other sectors that lead to biodiversity loss, among other examples of unfavourable tradeoffs, will likely have negative impacts on biodiversity and can threaten food and water security as well as local livelihoods, and can increase social conflicts,]

Also noting that nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards are an essential component of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#), [IX/16](#), [X/33](#), [XIII/4](#), and [14/5](#) and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;¹¹

2. *Also welcomes* the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (a) *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (SRI.5)*,¹² (b) *IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)*,¹³ and (c) *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC)*,¹⁴

3. *Further welcomes* the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and its implications for the work of the Convention contained in the note by the Executive Secretary;¹⁵

4. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including productive sectors, to promote and upscale the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including ecosystem protection and restoration, sustainable infrastructure and ecosystem management, including

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

¹¹ <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>.

¹² <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

¹³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>

¹⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

agroecosystems, and taking into account their potential for synergies for addressing biodiversity loss and climate change while providing multiple benefits, including for human health, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, as well as their ability to avoid unfavourable tradeoffs between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation;

5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legislation, when pursuing domestic climate action under the Paris Agreement,¹⁶ to strengthen and upscale their efforts to integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction into national and other planning processes, [including existing, new and updated nationally determined contributions] and national adaptation plans, as appropriate, and into national climate change-related reports, including national communications and biennial reports, and into spatial planning, and to develop indicators to measure implementation and the effectiveness of the application of these approaches;

6. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in accordance with national legislation, when designing and implementing climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction measures, including ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration national circumstances:

(a) To make use of the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,¹⁷ as well as other tools and guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international instruments;

(b) To identify and maximize potential synergies and promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts on biodiversity, [including those from the renewable energy transition,] particularly for vulnerable ecosystems and other ecosystems that are irreplaceable, and communities that directly depend on biodiversity;

7. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, financial institutions, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, consistent with Article 20 of the Convention:

[(a) To scale up investments [especially to developing country Parties] for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable infrastructure;]

[(b) To include ecosystem-based approaches in relevant sectoral policies and budgets according to national priorities;]

(c) To develop and make use of synergies between biodiversity, climate change and land degradation financing mechanisms;

[8. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the productive and financial sectors, to consider the potential opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change, including through the use of ecosystem-based approaches, with a view to reducing risk to these sectors and to facilitate coordinated actions to promote sustainable resource management;]

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

¹⁷ Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>

9. [Recognizes that global strategies adopted to address biodiversity and climate change must take into account national circumstances and capabilities as well as such principles as common but differentiated responsibilities;]

10. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,¹⁸

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer cooperation among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,¹⁹ the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda,²⁰ and other relevant organizations and processes to enhance integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ocean degradation;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and processes, in particular the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and stakeholders:

[(a) To provide and develop, as appropriate, guidance on ways and means to address threats, including through risk assessment and risk management, to vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change and ecosystems with a high mitigation potential and communities that directly depend on ecosystem functions and services, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and to submit a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

(b) To facilitate capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, to increase awareness and understanding of ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020;

(c) To support the initiatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with national legislation on community-based monitoring and information systems for climate change, taking into account customary sustainable use of biodiversity and traditional knowledge;

13. *Appreciates* the continued collaboration and further development of synergies between the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions or its successor and other relevant bodies within the Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹⁸ Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

²⁰ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.